GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4987
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2001
USE OF PESTICIDES
S. SAIDUZZAMAN

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to Research findings reported by the Malaria Research Centre scientists in New Delhi on the dangers of pesticide coils, mats etc. on human health;

(b) if so, the details of the findings thereof;

(c) whether these coils etc. are based on pesticides and related solvents and synergists, all imported;

(d) if so, the value thereof indicating country of manufacture during the past three years; and

(e) whether the annual sales have run into crores of rupees and several million pieces are sold and if so, the numbers and value thereof indicating the funds spent on advertising, names of main manufacturers and names of the advertising media (TV, print media) specially since these recommend closing of door etc. after spray;

(f) whether these advertisements are in accordance with the FAO code on Advertising and the Environmental Protection Act; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. As per information made available by Malaria Research Centre, New Delhi, a report entitled `Health Hazards on Mosquito Repellants and Safe Alternatives` was published in Current Science Volume 80 No. 3, February 2001.The Report states that 11.8% people using various types of repellants including coils and mats containing allethrin and other pyrethroid and deet based cream, complained of ill health affects.

(c) & (d) The allethrin and related pesticides of synthetic pyrethroid groups are commonly used in manufacturing of repellants. The coil, mat, liquid vaporizer and aerosol formulations of allethrin are registered under the Insecticide Act, 1968 for use for control of mosquitos. The safety of these formulations are duly evaluated by the Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticide Act, 1968 before approving their use. The Act also regulates the import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of various kinds of insecticides with a view to prevent the risk to human beings and animals.

(e), (f) & (g) As per information published in the above paper, the current Indian market for various repellants is in the range of Rs. 500-600 crores with annual growth of 7-10%. No code on advertising for mosquito repellant, mats and coils has been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. There is neither any ban nor control over expenditure on advertisement under the Insecticides Act, 1968. However, any false claim or any violation of conditions of registration are punishable under the Insecticides Act, 1968.